

Hatchery Highlights

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Iron River NFH
News and Updates



Fall 2006

Topics this month: *Open House
*Fish Truck Facelift
*Elastomer Tag Update
*Coaster Brook Trout Plant

AND THEY'RE OFF!

Staff from the Iron River National Fish Hatchery were running in all directions at the open house on Saturday, August 5th, 2006 giving guided tours to the visiting public. The event was attended by approximately 500 people who were able to ask questions of the hatchery staff as well as people from Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Ashland Fisheries Resource Office, Trout Unlimited and the Friends of the Iron River NFH. The day included coloring for kids, fly-tying demonstrations from Dick Berge of Trout Unlimited, guided tours to groups of 15-25 people and the all important cookies and lemonade! The staff at Iron River NFH would like to thank: Dick Berge of Trout Unlimited, Mary Lee Bast of the Friends of the Iron River NFH, Jonathan Pyatskowit of the Ashland FRO, Liisa Niva of Whittlesey Creek Ashland and Superior for their donations of cookies and lemonade.



After completing the tours, visitors stopped by the booths to ask more questions!

FISH DISTRIBUTION UNIT GETS A FACELIFT

One of the most important pieces of equipment at the Iron River National Fish Hatchery is our 3,000 gallon fish distribution tanker. It is used to haul millions of lake trout yearlings to numerous destinations in the upper Great Lakes, traveling thousands of miles each spring. The truck is visible to the public during those trips and it is important that it displays a positive image of the Hatchery and of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Clark Bartelt, Facilities Manager, removed and replaced the lettering and stickers on the sides of the tank and doors. The lettering had been on the truck for almost ten years. The cost to have this done at a commercial sign shop was estimated at over \$1,000. Clark was able to obtain the lettering from the regional Fish and Wildlife Service sign shop for a cost of \$50 dollars, saving the Hatchery over \$900.00. These saved funds will be used for other operational needs and due to Clark's hard work the truck will look respectable as it travels throughout the region hauling lake trout for many years to come.



Clark Bartelt puts the finishing touches on the fish truck lettering.

SIX MONTH CHECK UP!

On October 16, 2006, biologist Angela Baran completed a full inventory of the elastomer tagged Tobin Harbor strain coaster brook trout. This 2004 year class was tagged in March to determine how well elastomer tags would work for future marking of brood and production fish. Thirty days after the initial tagging, the fish were inventoried and approximately 10% lost their tags completely. The full inventory in October showed an additional 20% of the fish lost their tags. This inventory will also help with future color and site choice, for example the blue tags in the adipose eyelid were harder to distinguish without the flashlight because of natural blue coloring around the eye. Stay tuned for the spring inventory update!

COASTERS FIND A HOME



Biologist Steve Redman nets fish into the tanks to be driven to the lake.

This past September, many retired coaster brook trout were stocked into waters on the Grand Portage Tribal Reservation. Staff from the Iron River National fish Hatchery planted approximately 1,700 Siskiwit bay coasters ranging from 12-17 inches and about 1,800 Tobin harbor coasters ranging from 8-17 inches. These fish went into Taylor Lake, a designated trout lake, on the reservation. All fish planted had year-class and strain specific fin clips that will enable biologist to monitor these hatchery fish. This stocking event was unique in that fish were hauled via distribution truck from the hatchery, then offloaded onto four-wheel utility vehicles and taken ½ mile through the woods, over the rocks, and into the mud all the way to their final resting place, Taylor Lake. This was beneficial to the tribe by creating increased recreational fishing opportunities and beneficial to the Iron River Hatchery in that it greatly reduced the

weight of fish held in brood raceways.



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